THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, January 6, 1800.

MEMOIRS *of* ADMIRAL LORD BRIDPORT.

[From Public Characters of 1799-1800.]

THIS veteran officer was the ſon of the late vicar of Thorncombe, in Devonſhire, and is the younger brother of Lord Hood. He received, we believe, his principal education under the immediate eye of his parent.

Lord Bridport entered early into the naval ſervice; and, having only his own merit and diligence to truſt to, in reſpect to his future proſpects, his ſubſequent eminence forms the higheſt panegyric on his character.

On the 2d of December, 1746, he was made a Lieutenant; and, on the 10th of June, 1756, was promoted to be Poſt-Captain of the Prince George, of 90 guns. In 1757, he was appointed to the Antelope, of 50 guns; and, being on a cruiſe in the month of May, on the coaſt of France, he fell in with the Aquilon, a French frigate, of 48 guns, and 450 men. After a running fight of two hours, Captain Hood drove her on the rocks in Audierne-Bay, where ſhe was totally loſt. The enemy had thirty men killed, and thirteen wounded. The Antelope had three killed, and thirteen wounded.

During this action, a midſhipman, of the name of Murray, had both his legs ſhot away. He was immediately carried down to the ſurgeon; but, whilſt his wounds were dreſſing, hearing three cheers from the crew, and concluding the enemy's ſhip had ſtruck, the ebbing ſpirit of his life in-

ſtantly rallied; and, waving his hand in triumph, the gallant youth expired!

In 1758, Captain Hood ſerved in the Mediterranean on board the St. George, of 90 guns, commanded by Rear-Admiral Saunders, part of the fleet under the command of Admiral Oſborne. He was preſent on the 28th of February, when the French Admiral Du Queſne, in attempting to reinforce De la Clue, was blocked up in the harbour of Carthagena. Captain Hood returned from the Mediterranean with Rear-Admiral Saunders, and arrived at Spithead on the 5th of July. Soon after his arrival, he was appointed to command the Minerva frigate of 32 guns.

During the greater part of 1759, he ſerved under Commodore Duff, who was employed to block up the French tranſports in the Morbian. Captain Hood alſo captured the Ecureuil, a Bayonne privateer, of 14 guns, and 122 men; but he did not obtain any freſh addition of laurels till the beginning of the year 1761. On the 23d of January of that year, cruizing near Cape Pinas, which bore S. by E. thirty leagues, a large ſail was diſcerned from the Minerva ſoon after day-break. Captain Hood immediately gave orders to chaſe. His antagoniſt was the Warwick, an old Engliſh ſhip, pierced for 60 guns, and mounting 34, commanded by M. Le Verger de Belair. Her crew amounted to about three hundred men, including a company of ſoldiers, which were deſtined to reinforce the garriſon at Pondicherry. It was paſt ten before the Minerva came up with her; when Captain Hood, notwithſtanding his inferiority, ran alongſide, and began the engagement. The fire on both ſides was terrible. "At eleven,* her main and fore-top maſt went away, and ſoon after ſhe came on board us on the ſtarboard bow, and then fell alongſide; but the ſea ſoon parted us, when the enemy fell aſtern. About a quarter after eleven, the Minerva's bowſprit went away, and the fore-maſt ſoon followed it: Theſe were very unfortunate accidents, and I almoſt deſpaired of being able to attack the enemy again. However, I cut the wreck away as ſoon as poſſible; and, about one o'clock, cleared the ſhip of it, with the loſs of one man and the ſheet-anchor. I then wore the ſhip, and ſtood for the enemy, who was about three leagues to leeward of me. At four o'clock, I came up cloſe to the enemy, and renewed the attack. About a quarter before five ſhe ſtruck; when I found ſhe had fourteen killed, and thirty-two wounded.

* Captain Hood's letter to government.

wounded. Our numbers are, the boatſwain and thirteen killed, and the gunner and thirty-three wounded: The former and two ſeamen died on the 27th. I have given my thanks to the officers and crew of his Majeſty's ſhip for their firm and ſpirited behaviour; and I have great pleaſure in acquainting their Lordſhips with it. At nine o'clock, the main-maſt of the Minerva went away; at eleven, the mizen-maſt followed it."

Captain Hood roſe, by this gallant action, high in the eſtimation of his Sovereign and the public. It gave celebrity to his character, and placed his merit as an officer above the common level. He was, in conſequence, appointed, in Auguſt, 1761, to command part of the ſquadron deſtined to convey the preſent Queen to England. After the peace of Paris in 1763, he obtained a guard-ſhip at Portſmouth; and, in 1766, ſoon after the uſual period of his command had elapſed, ſucceeded Sir Charles Saunders as the Treaſurer of Greenwich Hoſpital.

On the proſpect of hoſtilities with France, he ſailed from St. Helen's on the 8th of June, 1778, in the Robuſt, of 74 guns, being part of the grand Channel fleet under the command of Admiral Keppel. On the 28th, they returned into port, with the French frigates Pallas and Licorne, which had been captured; and they ſailed again on Friday, the 10th of July. The Breſt fleet, conſiſting of thirty-two ſail, five frigates, and five gondolas, had alſo in the interim put to ſea. After ſome days ſpent in manœuvring, the action between the two fleets commenced off Uſhant, on the 27th of July. The winds were conſtantly in the N. W. and S. W. ſometimes blowing ſtrong, and the French fleet, being always to windward, kept aloof. The French began their fire on the 27th upon the headmoſt of Vice-Admiral Harland's diviſion; and the two fleets, being on different tacks, paſſed very near each other, engaging ſharply along the whole line. Towards the cloſe of day, the enemy formed their fleet again; a proceeding which Admiral Keppel did not prevent, as he conceived they meant handſomely to meet him the next morning. He was, however, diſappointed in this expectation, as they took the advantage of the night, and, on the following morning, were out of ſight. Captain Hood was ſtationed in the line, in the Blue diviſion, as ſecond to its Admiral, Sir Hugh Palliſer.

The Robuſt, on the morning of the 27th, had been ordered with other ſhips, by ſignal from the Victory, to chaſe to windward; and, during the ſubſequent action, ſhe was rather

ſeverely handled by the enemy. A large ſhot went through the main-maſt, two through the fore-maſt, two ſtruck the bowſprit, and one ſlightly wounded the mizen-maſt. The main-topmaſt was ſhot in two or three places; the main-top-ſail-yard ſhot away; the fore-topgallant-maſt ſhot in two; the mizen-yard received two ſhot, and beſides ſhe had received about fourteen ſhot under water, one of which, being a forty-eight pounder, rendered the ſituation of the crew dangerous; and it was eight o'clock in the evening before they could ſtop the leak. The ſails of the Robuſt were much cut; moſt of the braces, bowlines, and running rigging, with many of the lower and topmaſt yards, and two of the ſtarboard lower-deck ports, were ſhot away. Notwithſtanding, however, that his ſhip was ſo much damaged, ſhe was fought ſo judiciouſly, that only five men were killed and ſeventeen wounded. Captain Hood returned with the fleet to Spithead on the 28th of October, and did not go to ſea again until he obtained an Admiral's flag.

The ſubſequent trials of the two Commanders, Lord Keppel and Sir Hugh Palliſer, and the part taken by Sir Alexander Hood on the occaſion, drew upon him much popular odium at the time. He was, however, on the 26th of September, 1780, appointed Rear-Admiral of the White; and having, in 1782, hoiſted his flag on board the Queen, of 90 guns, he was appointed to command the ſecond, or larboard, diviſion of the centre ſquadron in the grand fleet, which was ſent under the command of Lord Howe to relieve Gibraltar. On the 19th of October, Lord Howe, having effected the object of his voyage, took the advantage of a fair wind to repaſs the Streights. He was followed by the combined fleet of the enemy, conſiſting of forty-ſix ſail of the line. The Britiſh fleet being formed to leeward to receive them, the enemy were left to take the diſtance at which they choſe to engage. The French diviſion commenced its cannonade about ſun-ſet on the van and rear, the chief attack being on the latter, and the fire was ſoon commenced along the whole line, at a conſiderable diſtance, and with little effect. It was returned occaſionally from the ſhips of the Britiſh fleet, as the nearer approach of the enemy afforded a favourable opportunity of making an impreſſion upon them; but, as the Britiſh commander had no orders to riſk a general engagement, he kept his courſe all night in full ſail, and thus the fleets ſeparated.

The year following, Rear-Admiral Hood was choſen Member for the borough of Bridgewater, and, on the 7th of May,

May, 1788, he was inveſted with the order of the Bath. At the time of the apprehended rupture with Spain, on the 12th of May, 1790, Admiral Hood's flag was hoiſted on board the London, of 98 guns.

On the 4th of July, he commanded the van-diviſion of Admiral Barrington's fleet in Torbay, with his flag on board the Victory, of 100 guns.

On the 1ſt of February, 1793, Sir Alexander Hood was promoted to be Vice-Admiral of the Red. During this year, his flag continued on board the Royal George, with a command under Earl Howe in the Channel fleet. On the famous 1ſt of June, and on the preceding days, his ſhip was particularly diſtinguiſhed. She commenced the action on the 29th of May, and, during that on the 1ſt of June, was expoſed to an inceſſant cannonade. Sir Alexander, during the whole of this action, diſplayed in many inſtances his great ſkill and intrepidity. The foremaſt, with the fore and main-top maſt, of the Royal George, were ſhot away, and ſhe had twenty men killed, and ſeventy-two wounded. On his return he was preſented with the gold chain and medal, with the other Flag Officers and Captains of the victorious fleet, and was afterwards created Baron Bridport.

His Lordſhip acquired freſh laurels, off L'Orient, in June, 1795, in an engagement between the fleet he commanded and a fleet of the enemy. By a maſterly manœuvre, he took, in this affair, three line of battle ſhips.

On the 31ſt of May, 1796, Lord Bridport was made a Peer of Great Britain; and, ſince the late Lord Howe finally reſigned the command of the Channel fleet, in 1797, the ſubject of this memoir has continued to hold it with great credit to himſelf and his country.

His firſt wife was a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Weſt, and niece to the late Lord Viſcount Cobham. By this marriage he became related to the Pitt and Lyttleton families. His lady dying in September, 1782, he was again married, on the 26th of June, 1788, to Miſs Bray, only daughter of the late Thomas Bray, Eſq. of Edmonton.

Lord Bridport firſt learnt the principles of our naval ſervice under the Admirals Smith and Saunders. Thoſe perſons who have ſerved under his command, ſpeak of him as their father, rather than as their ſuperior officer. His name will certainly paſs down to poſterity among the Howes, the Rodneys, the Anſons, the Ruſſells, the Blakes, the Duncans, and the illuſtrious liſt of other naval heroes, who have contributed

tributed to raiſe their country to its preſent height of diſtinction and glory.

K.

A Deſcription of the City of Waſhington, in North America.

By Mr. WELD.

THIS city is laid out on a neck of land, between the forks formed by the eaſtern and weſtern or main branch of the Potowmac river. This neck of land, together with an adjacent territory, which is in the whole ten miles ſquare, was ceded to Congreſs by the ſtates of Maryland and Virginia. The ground on which the city immediately ſtands was the property of private individuals, who readily relinquiſhed their claim to one half of it in favour of Congreſs, conſcious that the value of what was left to them would increaſe, and amply compenſate them for their loſs. The profits ariſing from the ſale of that part which has thus been ceded to Congreſs will be ſufficient, it is expected, to pay for the public buildings, for the watering of the city, and alſo for paving and lighting of the ſtreets.

The plan of this city was drawn by a Frenchman, of the name of L'Enfant, and is on a ſcale well ſuited to the extent of the country, one thouſand two hundred miles in length, and one thouſand in breadth, of which it is to be the metropolis; for the ground already marked out for it is no leſs than fourteen miles in circumference. The ſtreets run north, ſouth, eaſt, and weſt; but to prevent that ſameneſs neceſſarily enſuing from the ſtreets all croſſing each other at right angles, a number of avenues are laid out in different parts of the city, which run tranſverſly; and in ſeveral places, where theſe avenues interſect each other, are to be hollow ſquares. The ſtreets, which croſs each other at right angles, are from ninety to one hundred feet wide, the avenues one hundred and ſixty feet. One of theſe is named after each ſtate, and a hollow ſquare alſo allotted to each, as a ſuitable place for ſtatues, columns, &c. which, at a future period, the people of any one of thoſe ſtates may wiſh to erect to the memory of great men that may appear in the country.

The only public buildings carrying on as yet are the Preſident's houſe, the capitol, and a large hotel. The Preſi-

dent's houſe, which is nearly completed on the outſide, is two ſtories high, and built of free ſtone. The principal room in it is of an oval form. This is undoubtedly the handſomeſt building in the country, and the architecture of it is much extolled by the people, who have never ſeen any thing ſuperior; but it will not bear a critical examination. Many perſons find fault with it, as being too large and too ſplendid for the reſidence of any one perſon in a republican country; and certainly it is a ridiculous habitation for a man who receives a ſalary that amounts to no more than 5625l. ſterling per annum, and in a country where the expences of living are far greater than they are even in London.

The hotel is a large building of brick, ornamented with ſtone; it ſtands between the Preſident's houſe and the capitol. In the beginning of the year 1796, when I ſaw it, it was roofed in, and every exertion making to have it finiſhed with the utmoſt expedition. It is any thing but beautiful. The capitol, at the ſame period, was raiſed only a very little way above the foundation.

The ſtone which the Preſident's houſe is built with, and ſuch as will be uſed for all the public buildings, is very ſimilar in appearance to that found at Portland in England; but I was informed by one of the ſculptors, who had frequently worked the Portland ſtone in England, that it is of a much ſuperior quality, as it will bear to be cut as fine as marble, and is not liable to be injured by rain or froſt. On the banks of the Potowmac they have inexhauſtible quarries of this ſtone; good ſpecimens of common marble have alſo been found; and there is in various parts of the river abundance of excellent ſlate, paving ſtone, and lime ſtone. Good coal may alſo be had.

The private houſes are all plain buildings; moſt of them have been built on ſpeculation, and ſtill remain empty. The greateſt number, at any one place, is at Green Leaf's Point, on the main river, juſt above the entrance of the eaſtern branch. This ſpot has been looked upon by many as the moſt convenient one for trade; but others prefer the ſhore of the eaſtern branch, on account of the ſuperiority of the harbour, and the great depth of the water near the ſhore. There are ſeveral other favourite ſituations, the choice of any one of which is a mere matter of ſpeculation at preſent. Some build near the capitol, as the moſt convenient place for the reſidence of Members of Congreſs, ſome near the Preſident's houſe; others again prefer the weſt end

of

of the city, in the neighbourhood of George Town, thinking that as trade is already eſtabliſhed in that place, it muſt be from thence that it will extend into the city. Were the houſes that have been built ſituate in one place all together, they would make a very reſpectable appearance; but ſcattered about as they are, a ſpectator can ſcarcely perceive any thing like a town. Excepting the ſtreets and avenues, and a ſmall part of the ground adjoining the public buildings, the whole place is covered with trees. To be under the neceſſity of going through a deep wood for one or two miles, perhaps, in order to ſee a next door neighbour, and in the ſame city, is a curious, and, I believe, a novel circumſtance. The number of inhabitants in the city, in the ſpring of 1796, amounted to about five thouſand, including artificers, who formed by far the largeſt part of that number. Numbers of ſtrangers are continually paſſing and repaſſing through a place which affords ſuch an extenſive field for ſpeculation.

Shandean Reflections in a Journey to Norwich about 1690.

FIRST PRINTED IN THE YEAR 1711.

RUMFORD, at the Sun, April 15.—Here I was quarrelling with the hoſtler for his falſe meaſure. I ſaid in my anger that none of his profeſſion ever went to Heaven. A country parſon ſtanding by reproved me for my raſh words. He did believe they were moſt of them knaves; but ſaid, if God Almighty ſhould puniſh all ſinners according to their demerits, Heaven would be a ſolitary place. I was ſenſible of my fault, and gave him thanks for his ſeaſonable correction. I told him that, when I was ſerious, I was of his perſuaſion, and could not believe that place was deſigned for a deſert. To make one ſtep towards it, or two, I aſked the fellow pardon for ſome hard names I had called him by, and adviſed him withall to take new meaſures. The Devil (the Devil himſelf) for all the parſon was ſo nigh, ſtood cloſe on my left ſhoulder all the while; and with an officious courteous ſmile commended me for what I had done. Not that it could pleaſe him; but, as I ſuppoſe, to raiſe in me a vain conceit upon it. My better genius, on the other ſide, bade me not liſten to the flatterer; and with an awful aſpect, though not frightful, aſked me, whether I did not believe that, in the ſix-pence given to the hoſtler, there was, virtually, contained a ſhilling benefit to myſelf? I, conſcious of a partial dou-

ble-dealing, anſwered him in my looks. For, fixing mine eyes upon the ground, they tacitly confeſt my guilt.

16. Burntwood.— . . . . . .

Ingateſtone, Crown.—Walking without the town, by the road-ſide I ſaw an horſe half-ſtarved and overloaded.—"Friend," ſaid I to the clown who drove him, "if ſome of the corn which is upon your horſe's back were in his belly, he would carry it better far." "That horſe hath eat no oats theſe two years," ſaid the boor, "yet I have gallopped him twenty miles in little more than two hours within theſe ſix months." "If you had trotted it on foot," ſaid I, "you might have talked on't, indeed; but you were to blame in the wrong you did the nobler beaſt." "Why, what was he made for?" ſaid the two-legged brute. "For aught I know," ſaid I, "with a little help of your whip and your ſpur [by his cruelty], to gallop with thee to the Devil." I have a compaſſion for dumb creatures: Theſe cannot plead for themſelves; and our ſtatutes aſſign no council for ſuch *paupers*. The bar is ſilent on their behalf, as the pulpit is. Could aſſes but drop gold at pleaſure, they would not want an advocate in either place. Lawyers would plead their property; divines would yield them ſouls.

17. Chelmsford.—Fleas, a cheating landlady, and a large church.

18. Colcheſter.—Here I took my leave of oyſters for the ſeaſon, and of the houſe for ever.

23. Bydeſdale, Crown.—I have little compaſſion for common beggars; but there are ſome men I cannot paſs without an alms. One of theſe I overtook this morning travelling on the road. He aſked me nothing: indeed there was no occaſion for it; his countenance ſufficiently expreſſed his wants. Or was he querulous in his ſtory, which he told at my requeſt. After two or three queſtions, I gave him a pittance. He had loſt one of his eyes by ſickneſs, and the ſame diſtemper had impaired the other. The beſt ſervice they could do him now was to weep withal; which he did plentifully at this time in ſeeming joy. May be they had not done the like office long before. He had paſſed ſixty years of age. If they had been fourſcore, I ſhould not have pitied him ſo much. The greateſt comfort to a wearied traveller is to be near his journey's end. His ſon, a child of eight years old, was his companion and his guide: though many ſteps behind him in his ways of ſorrow. My next thoughts were on him. I wiſh I had improved them as I ought; but they advanced my charity no farther than to

make my ſhilling five. The old man found ſpeech enough to thank me for it, and wiſhed me a reward in Heaven. I told him he had not well conſidered what he ſaid: there are no crown purchaſes in Heaven; they are all of greater value.

29. Burroughs, King's Arms.—Stepping into the kitchen, I ſaw the miſtreſs of the houſe nurtling ſome young chickens. I was pleaſed at the ſight, and commended her good-nature. But the old cock, who ſtood upon the threſhold, crowed, and bade me look in the kettle that was hanging over the fire; where I ſaw his conſort hen, the mother of them, boiling for mine hoſteſs's dinner. This ſhewed to whom her charity was directed, and gave me other thoughts of the action. Poor Doodle would have crowed again, but could not; through age and grief his ſpirit failed him. But the jay in the window, who knew the ſtory, told me all. He ſaid the cock had gone to pot too, and that he ſeemed to rejoice at the ſentence: but the boys of the houſe had got him a reprieve—till next *Shrove Tueſday*.

May 5. Brand, Chequer.—The two pretty daughters conſidered, the reckoning was well enough.

Original Letter of Kien-Long, Emperor of China, to the Stadtholder of Holland, Prince of Orange and Naſſau, and to the Burgomaſters.

I Have received from Heaven authority over my kingdom; I have reigned ſixty years, ſo that the four quarters of land and ſea belonging to this empire have enjoyed every where the bleſſings of peace; and neighbouring nations, profiting by our example, have advanced in civilization. I look upon my kingdom, and the kingdoms of other ſovereigns, as forming one large family; I conſider rulers and people as forming one perſon; I think every man, whether of my own kingdom or of any other, as worthy of my notice; neither is there any place, let it be ever ſo remote, where I do not wiſh the effects of my beneficence to penetrate. Strangers from every country have come to congratulate me: ſome in chariots, and others in ſhips. I truly govern my kingdoms with equity, and am pleaſed with the homage of thoſe who come to admire my wiſdom. I deſire greatly to rejoice alſo with all foreign kingdoms in that proſperity which is granted us from Heaven; and think that among my firſt duties,

I commend

I commend your nation, which, although ſeparated from mine by ſo great an interval of ſea, have nevertheleſs ſent letters of congratulation to me, and brought alſo conciliatory preſents. After having examined the letters, I perceive nothing either in the words or in the ſpirit that dictated them, that militates againſt the higheſt veneration for my character; from which I infer, that the principles of my government are juſt, and meet with your approbation. And, truly, this is not without juſt cauſe; for during the time in which you have carried on trade at Canton (now many years) our government has behaved honourably to all foreign nations; of all theſe not one can be found that has not received tokens of my regard and protection. In proof of which I might mention the Portugueſe, the Italians, the Engliſh, and the people of other nations, who are full of attachment to me, who are approved of by me, and who have brought me many valuable tokens of their eſteem.

In a word, I treat all alike, without any partiality; and although that which is offered to me may be of little value, it is my cuſtom to make a liberal return; which diſpoſition of mine no doubt you are ſufficiently acquainted with. So far as concerns his Excellency, the Ambaſſador, who has arrived in my dominions, I perceive he is not ſent nominally by your government; but that the Company to which he belongs poſſeſs the power to authoriſe him to preſent me with a ſimilar proof of good-will and eſteem, as you yourſelves would wiſh to do; and that having the command of the Stadtholder to obſerve the proſperity of my kingdom, and inform him thereof, they have felt themſelves inclined to felicitate me on the arrival of the ſixtieth year of my reign: and becauſe the Company is far removed from the ſeat of government, and cannot eaſily learn the ſentiments of their rulers, they are juſtified therefore in preſuming on the diſpoſition of their Sovereign, and thus, in his name, congratulating me. For I do not doubt, but that the ſame good will and affection which exiſt in them towards me, exiſt alſo in your breaſts; and therefore I treat their Ambaſſador as if he had been immediately ſent from the King.

I wiſh alſo you ſhould know, that in the Ambaſſador, charged with your letters patent and preſents, I have obſerved not leſs dignity than ſincerity in his actions. I have ordered my nobles to admit him into my audience; I have entertained him with various amuſements, and permitted him to ſee all places, not excepting my own ſplendid palaces in the gardens of Zeren-ming-yuen; I have made him experience

the effects of my benevolence, ſince we both mutually rejoice in the peace of this empire; and I have beſide made valuable preſents, not only to your Ambaſſador, but to his attendants, the ſoldiers, and ſervants; to thoſe I have given many things, as will appear from the following catalogue, beyond my uſual cuſtom.

On the return of the Ambaſſador to his own country, I gave orders that he ſhould preſent ſilks and other precious things to the Stadtholder, to which I added ſeveral other pieces of ſilk, together with many antique vaſes and utenſils. May the King receive my preſents, as from one who wiſhes him proſperity and happineſs; may he govern his people with wiſdom, and preſerve an eternal remembrance of my favours! A King ſhould give himſelf entirely to the concerns of his kingdom; and to that conduct I earneſtly recommend him.

Given in the ſixtieth year of the reign of Kien Long, and on the 24th day of the firſt moon.

The FILIAL PIETY *of an* INJURED DAUGHTER;

A HISTORY FOUNDED ON FACT.

FILIAL piety is a flower of ſo delicate a nature, that we do not too often meet with places that produce it; and though we frequently hear of parents that ruin themſelves for the ſake of their children, we do not ſo often hear of children that do any extraordinary acts of kindneſs to their parents. Nature, perhaps, has formed the parental ſenſibility far more exquiſite than the filial; and, for ſome wiſe purpoſe, implanted a much greater fondneſs on our minds for thoſe we beget and educate, than for thoſe to whom we ourſelves are indebted for exiſtence and education. Cuſtom, at leaſt, has eſtabliſhed ſuch different ſentiments relative to the behaviour of parent and child, that it has been thought a ſubject of the higheſt praiſe in an opulent ſon, to ſettle a paltry annuity of fifty pounds for life on a diſtreſſed and worthy father; but an action of little or no merit in a father, to ſettle twenty times that ſum on an indigent ſon. Exceptions to this obſervation undoubtedly ſometimes occur; and the following narrative, as ſuch, muſt give pleaſure to every reader.

An eminent merchant, whoſe real name it is proper to conceal under that of Lawſon, married a very amiable woman, with whom he received a conſiderable fortune, and by whom

whom he was bleſſed in the firſt year with a daughter called Serena. Mrs. Lawſon, however, having unfortunately caught cold, during her confinement, did not long ſurvive the birth of her daughter. In her dying moments, ſhe conjured her huſband to be particularly attentive to the welfare of their child, the motherleſs Serena.

Mr. Lawſon had been connected, for two years before his marriage, with a ſubtle deſigning woman, by whom alſo he had a daughter: Nor did his having a wife terminate the guilty intercourſe. Under the pretext of important buſineſs, he frequently ſtaid in town with her, a night or two in the week, while Mrs. Lawſon was at their villa in Eſſex; and he as often took her into the country with him, whenever he knew that his lady could not conveniently leave town. His marriage, indeed, had been rather the union of intereſt than of affection. The heart which could attach itſelf to ſuch an unworthy object as the miſtreſs, was not ſo capable of diſcerning and properly appreciating the many excellencies of the wife; and Mrs. Lawſon's ample fortune enabling him to live up to the ſummit of his wiſhes, the moment ſhe was interred, he thought there was no farther neceſſity for reſtraint or diſguiſe. In ſhort, ſcarcely had ſix weeks elapſed, when he married the abandoned woman who had thus withheld his affections from one of the beſt of her ſex.

We may paſs over the infancy of Serena, when ſhe experienced the petty cruelties of a narrow-minded mother-in-law, and come at once to the moſt important period of her life, when ſhe had entered her eighteenth year, in all the bloom of youth and beauty. It was then that Mrs. Lawſon began to think of executing a ſcheme which had long occupied her thoughts. She ſaw Serena univerſally treated with the higheſt reſpect; and ſhe beheld her own daughter, although dreſſed out with all the faſhionable frippery of the times, received with a degree of inſipid civility that bordered upon contempt. The ſhameful neglect that Serena experienced at home, gave a conſtant luſtre to her merit when abroad; and if ſhe found no kind of countenance in her own family, ſhe met with the higheſt in every other place. This was a circumſtance that nettled Mrs. Lawſon to the very ſoul: and being apprehenſive, moreover, that the regard ſo univerſally ſhewn to Serena might prevent any favourable overtures to her own daughter, ſhe neglected no opportunity of quarrelling with the former: and having an abſolute aſcendancy over her huſband, ſhe, at laſt, fairly turned her out of doors. Serena, however, although ſhe had loſt a father,

was

was not deſtitute of a protector. A worthy and accompliſhed young gentleman, with a noble fortune, who had long obtained her favourable opinion, took that opportunity of preſſing for her hand, and was made the happieſt of men.

Serena was married about five years, during which, though ſhe had often ſolicited for a reconciliation, ſhe could never gain admittance into the preſence of her father; when taking up the Gazette, one Saturday evening, ſhe met with his name among the liſt of bankrupts, and inſtantly fainted. She was, however, ſoon brought to herſelf; when forgetting, in a moment, that ſhe had been turned out upon the charity of an inhoſpitable world, and expoſed to all the rigours of poverty and diſgrace; that for a ſeries of years ſhe had been treated as an alien in her father's family, and even denied the moſt trivial neceſſaries, while ſtrangers were rioting upon her mother's fortune; ſhe flew to her huſband, whoſe whole happineſs was centered in obliging her, and pointing out the wretched condition of her father, obtained his conſent to ſettle three hundred pounds a year upon him, out of a ſum that he was to allow her as pin-money. With this ſhe immediately proceeded to her father's. The door was now thrown open at her approach, and being introduced into his preſence, they gazed upon each other for ſome moments, and then mutually burſt into tears.

Mr. Lawſon's misfortunes had opened his eyes to the ſtrangeneſs of his conduct, and nobody could be more ready to condemn it than he himſelf. What muſt be his emotions then, when a daughter, whom he had left deſtitute of bread, came to offer him a genteel allowance for life! His gratitude as a man, his feelings as a father, inſtantly ruſhed upon his ſoul. Let it ſuffice, that after his affairs were ſettled, he retired into the country upon this allowance, but did not live to enjoy it an entire quarter. The mortification of being a bankrupt, the conſciouſneſs of his family errors, and, finally, the very generoſity of his daughter, which was intended to ſweeten the remainder of his life, proved the means of hurrying him to his end: the agitation of his mind threw the gout into his ſtomach, and he expired in the arms of Serena. His wife and her daughter now thought themſelves utterly undone; but Serena, with a magnanimity peculiar to herſelf, in an inſtant diſpelled their apprehenſions, by continuing to them two hundred pounds a year for life; and without once ſtooping to remind them of any circumſtance in their former behaviour, ſhe only aſſured them, that ſhe conſidered this

proviſion for their maintenance as a duty on her part, which was indiſpenſably due to the memory of her father.

Singular Inſtance of Perſeverance and Fortitude in an Indian Warrior.

This circumſtance is communicated in a Letter from St. Lawrence, of the 4th of July:

THE Shawano Indians being obliged to remove from their habitations, in their way took a Muſkoligo warrior priſoner. They baſtinadoed him ſeverely, and condemned him to the fiery torture; he underwent a great deal without ſhewing any concern; his countenance and behaviour were as if he ſuffered not the leaſt pain. He told his perſecutors, with a bold voice, that he was a warrior; that he had gained moſt of his martial reputation at the expence of their nation, and was deſirous of ſhewing them, in the act of dying, that he was ſtill as much their ſuperior as when he headed his gallant countrymen againſt them; that although he had fallen into their hands, and forfeited the protection of the Divine Power by ſome impiety or other, when carrying the holy ark of war againſt his devoted enemies, yet he had ſo much remaining virtue as would enable him to puniſh himſelf more exquiſitely than all their ignorant crowd could do, if they would give him liberty, by untying him, and handing him one of the red-hot gun-barrels out of the fire.

The propoſal, and his method of addreſs, appeared ſo exceedingly bold and uncommon, that his requeſt was granted; then ſuddenly ſeizing one end of the red-hot barrel, and brandiſhing it from ſide to ſide, he forced his way through the armed and ſurprized multitude, leaped down a prodigious ſteep and high bank into a branch of the river, dived through it, ran over a ſmall iſland, and paſſed the other branch amidſt a ſhower of bullets; and though numbers of his enemies were in cloſe purſuit of him, he got into a bramble ſwamp, through which, though naked, and in a mangled condition, he reached his own country.

SHORT ACCOUNT *of the* DIVISION *of* TIME.

THERE is no correct account reſpecting the ancient diviſion of time; it is ſaid, by ſome, the Egyptian years were

our

our months: The Arcadians divided their year into three months, the Romans into ten. This diviſion Romulus made viz. March, April, May, June, Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October, November, and December; Quintilis and Sextilis were afterwards changed into July and Auguſt, in honour of the two Cæſars. Ninna added January and February. Even this increaſe divided the year into only 354 days; the eleven days he doubled every ſecond year, and made another month, called Mercidonius; this intercalation was left to the prieſt, who frequently omitted it: thus feaſts fell on different times. Julius Cæſar, to rectify this, made one year 15 months: he then added the 11 days to the 354, making the year 365 days, equal to the courſe of the ſun within ſix hours; theſe hours were left alone till they made one day; every fourth year he placed this day in that part of the calendar where the intercalary month uſed to be put, viz. five days before the end of February, and ſixth of the calends of March; for this year the ſupernumerary day was called Biſſextus; this is called the Julian period, and would have been correct, had the ſun apparently finiſhed its revolution in 365 days 6 hours. The interval of the time from the ſun's leaving the firſt point of Aries, till his return to it, is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 48 ſeconds, being 11 minutes and 12 ſeconds leſs than the Julian computation: this in a century makes a difference of 18 hours 24 ſeconds.

At the time of the council of Nice, in 1582, it was found that the ſun had entered the equinoctial circle on the 11th of March inſtead of the 21ſt. Pope Gregory XIII. took theſe ten days out, and ordered that the 11th ſhould be deemed the 21ſt. This was called New Stile, and immediately adopted in every country which acknowledged the Pope's ſupremacy —not admitted in England till the middle of this century. To prevent this difference again occurring, the Pope ordered every 100th year ſhould be a common year, not a leap year. This will lead into an error on the contrary ſide; every century the difference does not amount to one day; to render it more equal, every 400th year ſhould be leap year.

A REFLECTION.

PEOPLE of the fineſt ear very often have not the leaſt turn for mimickry; while, on the contrary, ſome of the beſt mimicks are miſtuned, and have not the leaſt ear for harmony.

AN ANECDOTE.

MR. L. Addiſon, the father of the admirable and refined writer, Joſeph Addiſon, Eſq. was one of the coarſeſt in point of diction, even in his own day. He tells us, in his voyage to Barbary, that "a Rabbin once told him, among other *heinous ſtuff*, that he did not expect the felicity of the next world on the account of any merits but his own; whoever kept the law would arrive at the bliſs by *coming upon his own legs*."

Short ACCOUNT *of the late* ADMIRAL ROBINSON.

THE late Admiral Mark Robinſon, who died in Bath in November, 1799, was a gentleman of the moſt diſtinguiſhed merit in his profeſſion. He was born on St. Mark's-day, 1722, O. S. and at the age of fourteen entered into the ſervice of his country. The exertions and conſequent diſtinctions of this gallant veteran merit a brief detail. He was actively engaged in moſt of the combats under the command of Sir Peter Warren and Lord Hawke. As commander of the Falcon his conduct and bravery were eminent and conſpicuous at the reduction of Guadaloupe, where his ſhip ſunk under him. He was afterwards appointed to the command of the Fowey on the coaſt of America, where he had the ſatisfaction of preſerving Charleſtown from the effects of an alarming conflagration; a ſervice for which the merchants of South Carolina expreſſed their gratitude by a public vote of thanks, dated January 14, 1771, and a very large piece of plate, bearing a ſuitable inſcription.

Under Lord Keppel he commanded the Worceſter; whence he was transferred to the Shrewſbury, in which ſhip he led the Britiſh fleet five times into action. In the laſt of theſe engagements, off the Capes of Virginia, he was diſabled by a ſevere wound in the hip, and the loſs of a leg.

Anſwer, by T. Jarvis, of Malborough, to G. England's Enigma, inſerted October 28.

HASTEN, Oh Lord! that happy day,
When direful WAR ſhall ceaſe to be;
When every heart ſhall ſweetly join
In bands of love and amity!

*** We have received the like anſwer from T. Whicker, P. Gove, and R. Thomas, of Exeter; R. Maffett, of Cargreen; and C. N. of the Royal Miners.

Anſwer, by Recluſe, of Yeovil, to W. Hoare's Rebus, inſerted November 4.

WHY praiſe we, prodigal of fame,
The rage that ſets the world in flame?
My feeble muſe his brow ſhall bind,
Whoſe heavenly goodneſs ſpares mankind:
HERVEY, who, large of ſoul, ſurveys
His God, and Providence doth weigh!

§ We have received the like anſwer from T. Whicker, and W. Hobbs, of Exeter; J. G. of Lyme Regis; Anna, of Wellington; G. England, of Uplyme; C. Heath, of the Nimble cutter; J. Ball, of Taunton; Walter Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton; and C. N. of the Royal Miners.

A CHARADE, *by W. Chudleigh, of Newton Buſhel.*

YE gen'rous youths! ambitious of applauſe,
Who love and reverence Britannia's laws,
Enter my firſt with ſerioufneſs and fear,
When you approach the word of God to hear;
Avaunt my next! to the infernal den,
Nor ever enter in the hearts of men:
Both parts connect, you'll quickly have in view,
A noble Britiſh warrior: So adieu!

A CHARADE, *by J. Gidley, Jun. of Dean Prior.*

UNTO my firſt the fiſherman
Doth often times repair,
With hook and artificial fly
The fiſhes to inſnare.
With circumſpection, care, and heed,
The human frame ſurvey,
And ſecondly a curious part
Of that machine pourtray:
Judiciouſly theſe parts combine,
And you'll an Engliſh place define.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

On WINTER.

By P. GOVE, *of Exeter.*

STERN Boreas now, with ruthleſs power,
Proclaims pale winter's reign,
The barren aſpect of the ground,
And cold deſcending rain.

When morning opens to the ſight,
The hoary froſt appears;
All nature clad in robes of white,
A dreary aſpect wears.

The woods which late with verdure crown'd,
Are ſtripp'd of all their pride;
The murmuring rills with ice are bound,
And now forget to glide.

The ſun which erſt with fervent beams
Refulgent bleſt the day.
Now faintly o'er the frozen ſtreams
Sheds but a glimmering ray.

The warbling thruſh's ſprightly note,
No more ſalutes the morn;
Cheerleſs they paſs the dreary day
Upon the leafleſs thorn.

The ſky-lark too, whoſe riſing note
Awoke the feather'd train;
Silence has ſeal'd its little throat,
He cheerleſs roams the plain.

No more in bloom the gay parterre,
Bedeck'd with Flora's tribe;
No fragrant ſcents from opening flowers,
On airy pinions glide.

While wrapp'd in winter's frozen arms,
How dormant nature lies!
Till ſpring ſhall open all her charms
With clear and brighter ſkies.

LINES *on* CONTEMPLATION.

HAIL! genius, grateful to the troubled mind!
Hail! contemplation—for 'tis thine to calm

The

The ſtorms of life; to ſooth, with chequer'd hope,
The ills thou can'ſt not cure; 'tis thine to ope
Reſources of new rapture to the ſenſe,
Thro' the eye's portal, gaining on the heart,
To wake to virtue, piety, and love.

At the ſtill hour of eve, when nature's tears
Bewail the languor of departing day,
And ſlowly gliding down the weſtern ſteep,
Its heavenly journey done, the orb of light
Gilds from the horizon's utmoſt verge, the ſky;
On ſome tall hill, in contemplation loſt,
How oft I've paus'd on the ſtupendous ſcene!
I've gaz'd the proſpect o'er, the ſilent vale,
The dark woods, peopl'd with the minſtrel tribes,
Whence ever and anon the penſive bird
Attun'd her evening ſong, the diſtant brook
Gliſtening with borrow'd light, and all thoſe tokens
Which to the ſenſe proclaim the death of day.
I've gaz'd, till mantling o'er the face of heaven,
Night's murky veil forbade my further view;
Then ſlowly homeward bent my thoughtful courſe,
And in the miniature of memory ſcann'd
The tranſient ſcene, till fancy weary grew.

Can fertile nature to the eye preſent
A nobler ſcene than when the ſetting ſun
Gleams on the fading proſpect, and illumes
With a laſt ſtream of light the ſpacious view?
Such is the death of virtue, ſuch the glow,
In her laſt hour, that animates the mind,
When on the tenor of a well-ſpent life,
The mental eye reverts, and gazes ſtill,
Till the dim ſhades of death o'erwhelm the ſight,
And lull the ſenſes in a long repoſe.

Oh! ye, who lur'd by intereſt, from the paths
Of rectitude and virtue, ſeek thoſe joys
Which virtue only yields, from worldly views
(If that ye can) awhile your thoughts withhold;
From nature's ſemblance learn th' important truth,
That happineſs was meant the meed of worth.
Yet will ye ſeek it in the golden ſtores
Of fraud, oppreſſion, cruelty, and pride?
Is not the ſoul's beſt health a guiltleſs conſcience?
Is not her worſe diſeaſe remorſe for ſin?
What if the world, indifferent to true worth,
Shall ſlight the effort, from yourſelves demand
The juſt reward—Know, what ſuggeſts the means,
Can beſt attain the end.—Be good and happy.

B. W. H.

1797.